

FREDERIC L. STEELE
 ST. MARY'S-IN-THE-MOUNTAINS
 LITTLETON, N. H.

LITERATURE CITED

- CHURCHILL, J. 1901. A Botanical Excursion to Mount Katahdin, *Rhodora* 3: 159.
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 STEBBINS, G. L., JR. 1950. *Variation and Evolution in Plants*, Columbia University Press, New York.

A FLORA OF NORTHERN NEW HAMPSHIRE¹

This is a thoroughly revised and enlarged edition of the Vascular Flora of Coos County, N. H., published in 1924. However, there are so many additions to the flora, changes in classification, revised statistics, and so much new material in the introduction, that this, in the words of the author, should be regarded as "essentially a new work." Professor Pease died before the actual publication, although he had completed the manuscript. The retyping, editing, index, and proofreading were done by Dr. Stuart K. Harris and Mr. Ralph C. Bean. Without their many hours of painstaking labor, the publication of the work in its excellent form would not have been possible.

A total of 1689 species, varieties and forms are treated, the nomenclature following the eighth edition of Gray's Manual. The bulk of the work consists of citations of these taxa from representative localities in the county. In the case of the common species, citations are made from 10 to 20 of the 43 townships and grants of which the county is composed; for rare species all localities are cited. Thus, the work gives an excellent presentation of the distribution of the plants, especially inasmuch as information on habitat and state of abundance are included. The citations in all except a very few cases are supported by specimens, principally in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club, but to a lesser extent in the Gray Herbarium, the Herbarium

¹A Flora of Northern New Hampshire by Arthur Stanley Pease, New England Botanical Club, Cambridge, Mass. 278 pages + 2 maps and index, 1964. \$4.00

of the University of New Hampshire, and others. The collector's name, collection number if any, and year of collection are given. Professor Pease explored and collected in Coos County with tireless energy from 1895 to 1962 inclusive, and it can be safely assumed that there is very little of significance that has escaped his notice. Except for some cases in the perplexing genera *Rubus* and *Crataegus*, he has identified or checked the identification of the plants, and, as he was noted for being an able and careful taxonomist, there should be very few errors.

Several features of the work will be of interest to the general reader. There is a comprehensive introduction, including a geological section, a discussion of floristic conditions, and a history of botanical investigations extending back for nearly 200 years. The catalogue includes a number of rarities such as the first United States station of *Eleocharis nitida* Fern. The only other locality in the country where it is found is in northeastern Minnesota. The Presidential Range possesses an unusual and distinctive alpine flora. The catalogue contains a definitive list of this flora along with records of all significant collections and also habitat data. Thus, it will be a basic reference for anyone studying the plants of the Presidentials.

There is little to criticize in the work. In some cases there appear to be an excessive number of citations, with too many duplicates from the same locality. A question might be raised as to whether casual escapes and railroad waifs form an actual part of the flora of the county. If so, it must be regarded as in a state of continual change, subject to the whims of gardeners and railroad shippers. All introduced plants are in bold type, however, so the reader can reach his own conclusions.

The book is a valuable contribution to the botanical literature on the flora of northeastern United States, and belongs in the library of all concerned with the study of plants in this region.

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